

Household Economics in the City of Chicago and Natural Gas Bills

Thousands of Chicago Ratepayers Live At or Below Poverty Levels

34% of PGL customers live below 150% of federal poverty limits

2016 Federal Poverty Guidelines	
Household Size	Income Level
1	\$11,880
2	\$16,020
3	\$20,160
4	\$24,300
6	\$32,580

Source: U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services, <https://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty-guidelines>

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Median Household Income by Income Quintile: City of Chicago					
Total Pop Median	Lowest	Second	Third	Fourth	Highest
\$47,831	\$8,679	\$26,256	\$48,164	\$80,605	\$197,372

- **115,000 households earn under \$10,000**
- **176,000 households earn under \$15,000**
- **349,000 households earn under \$30,000**

Source: American Community Survey (2014: 5-Year data), Tables B19001, B19013, B19081

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Total Population by Ratio of Income to Federal Poverty Level (2014): Chicago							
Under 50%	50 – 74%	75 – 99%	100 – 124%	125 – 149%	150 – 174%	175 – 184%	185 – 199%
274,122	312,597		162,772	153,624	182,652		69,193
10%	12%		6%	6%	7%		3%

Source: American Community Survey (2014), Table B17002

PGL Customers Need Financial Assistance

In a recent 12-month period...

- 230,000 PGL accounts received disconnection notices
- 77,000 PGL accounts actually disconnected
- 78,000 PGL accounts entered into deferred payment agreements
- 80,000 PGL accounts enrolled in LIHEAP

but LIHEAP enrollments do not tell the full story:

- In 2014, only 20% of eligible low-income IL pop enrolled in LIHEAP
- PIPP served only 5% of eligible low-income population

Sources: ICC Docket Nos. 14-0224/0225 (cons.), AG Exhibits 10.2, 10.3;

<http://www.liheapch.acf.hhs.gov/dereg/states/illinois.htm>;

Roger Colton, 2014 Illinois Home Energy Affordability Gap,

http://www.homeenergyaffordabilitygap.com/03a_priorYearAffordability/03a_affordabilityData13.html